

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# *Ecological Assessment: How EMAP fits into a State Monitoring Program*


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*Ambient River Monitoring*  
*Ground Water Monitoring*  
*TMDL Monitoring/Assessment*  
*Volunteer Monitoring*  
*Coastal EMAP Monitoring*  
*Stream EMAP Monitoring*  
*Special Projects Monitoring*

# *Goals of Oregon Water Quality Monitoring*

- Assess Status and Trends (Spatial and Temporal Variability)
- Characterize and Rank Problems
- Design and Implement Programs and Projects (TMDL's, GWMA's)
- Evaluate Program and Project Effectiveness
- Compliance
- Respond to emergencies (New Carissa)
- Water Quality = Physical, chemical, biological (stream health)



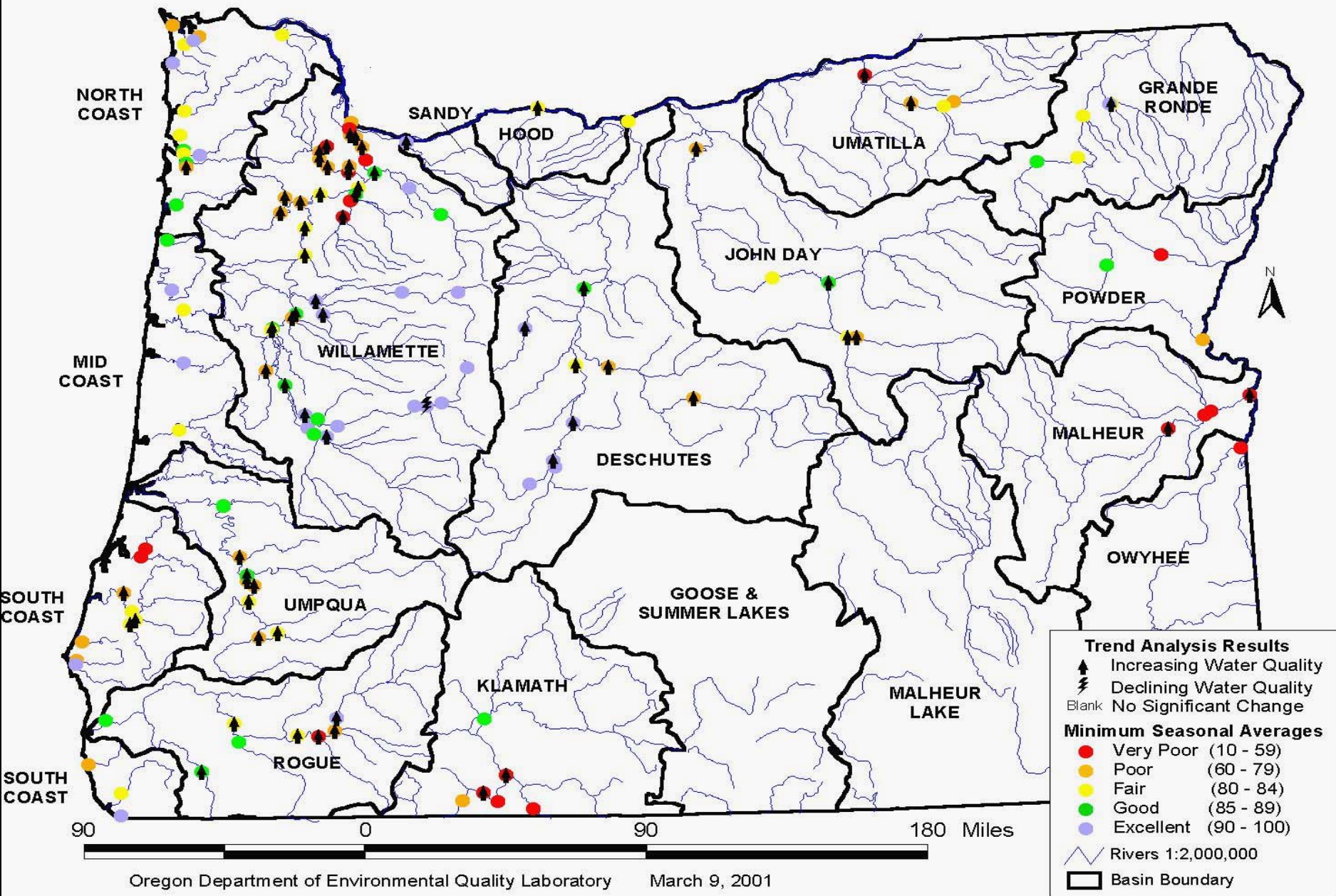
# *Status and Trends Of Larger Streams*

- 4th and 5th Order Streams
- Small Population
- Oregon Ambient Network of 142 sites
- One site for every 48 miles of Streams
- Excellent status and trends



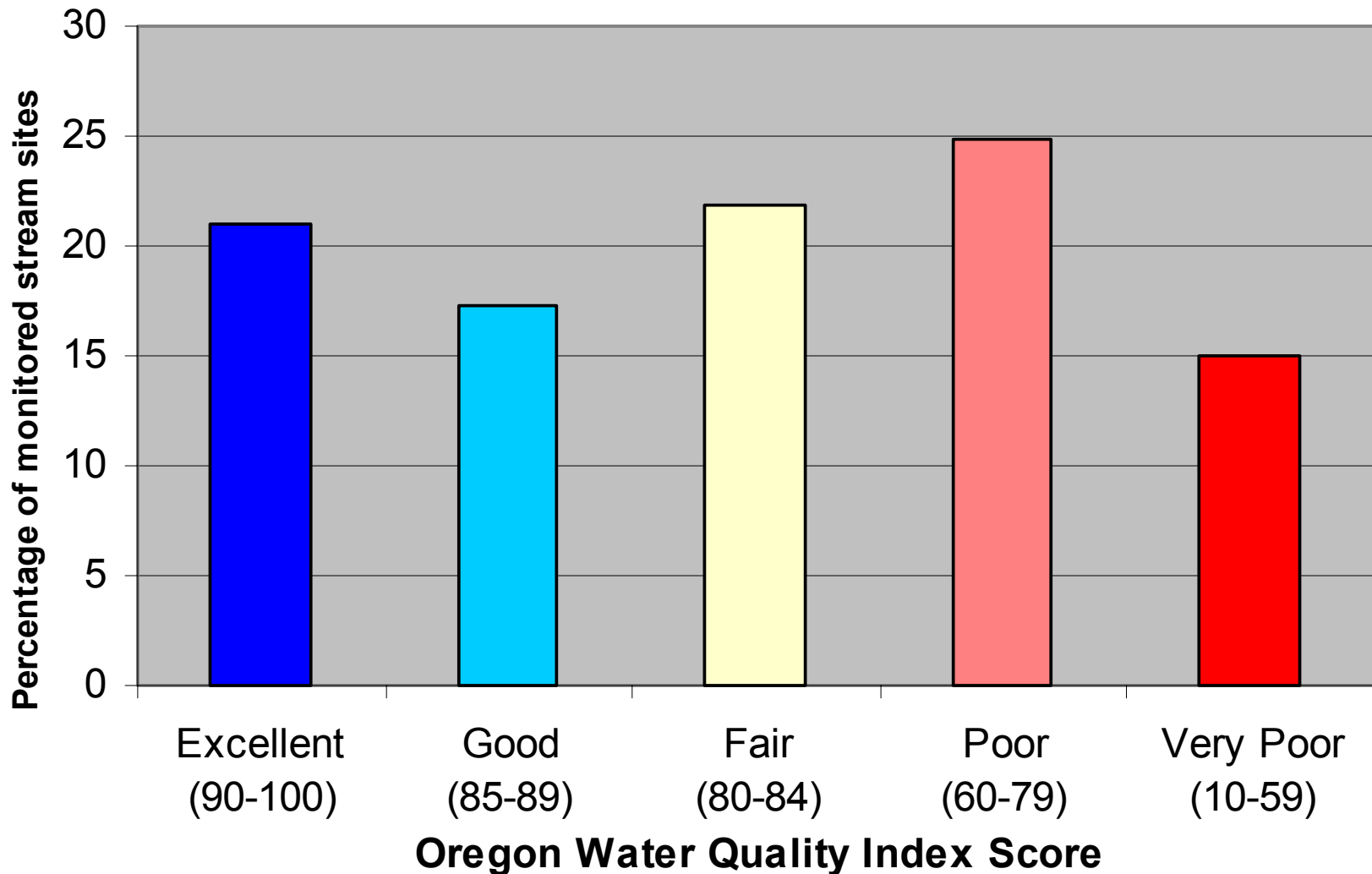


# Oregon Water Quality Index Results



## State Water Quality Conditions Based on Oregon Water Quality Index (WY '90-'99)

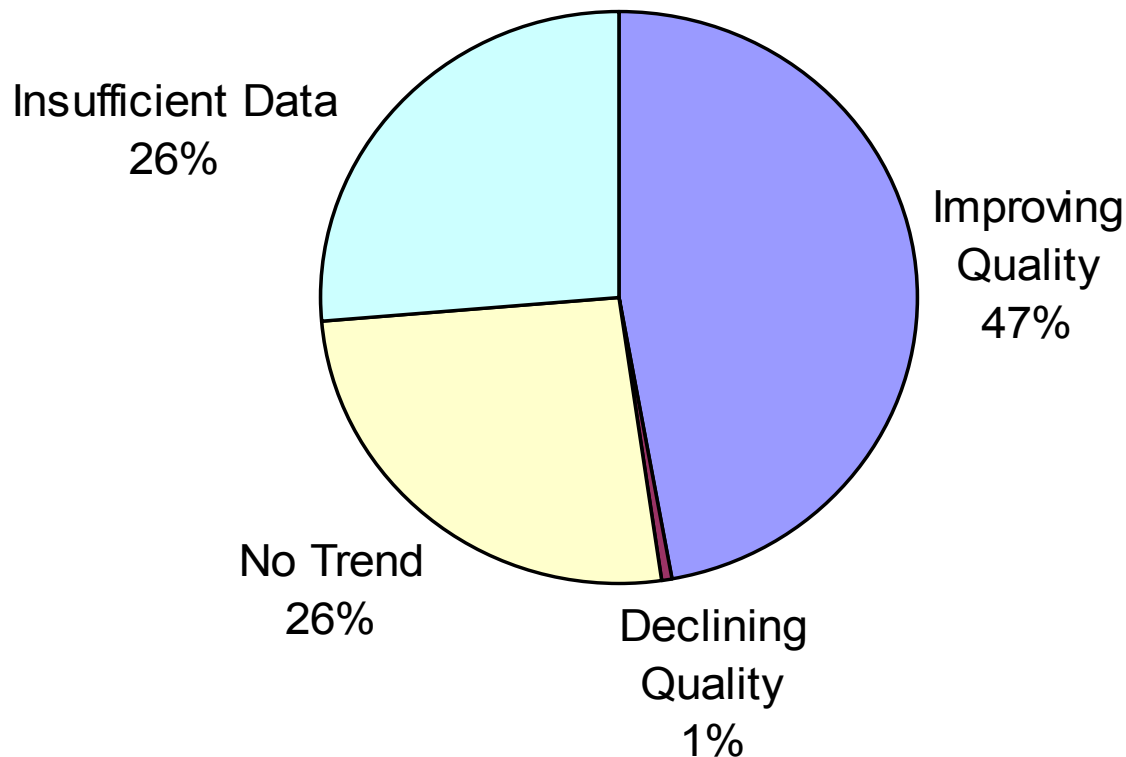
Data from statewide ambient river monitoring network of 140 stations.



# *Statewide Water Quality Info*

## *140 Ambient Sites*

### **Trend Analysis - Ambient WQM Network**





# *Status and Trends of Smaller Streams*

- Primarily 1st, 2nd, 3rd Order Streams - Wadeable
- Large Population
- EMAP Approach Excellent
- Probabilistic Sampling
- Small Number of Samples can Characterize a Large Population
- Unbiased, Statistically Supportable



# *Examples of Stream Orders*



1st Order



3rd Order

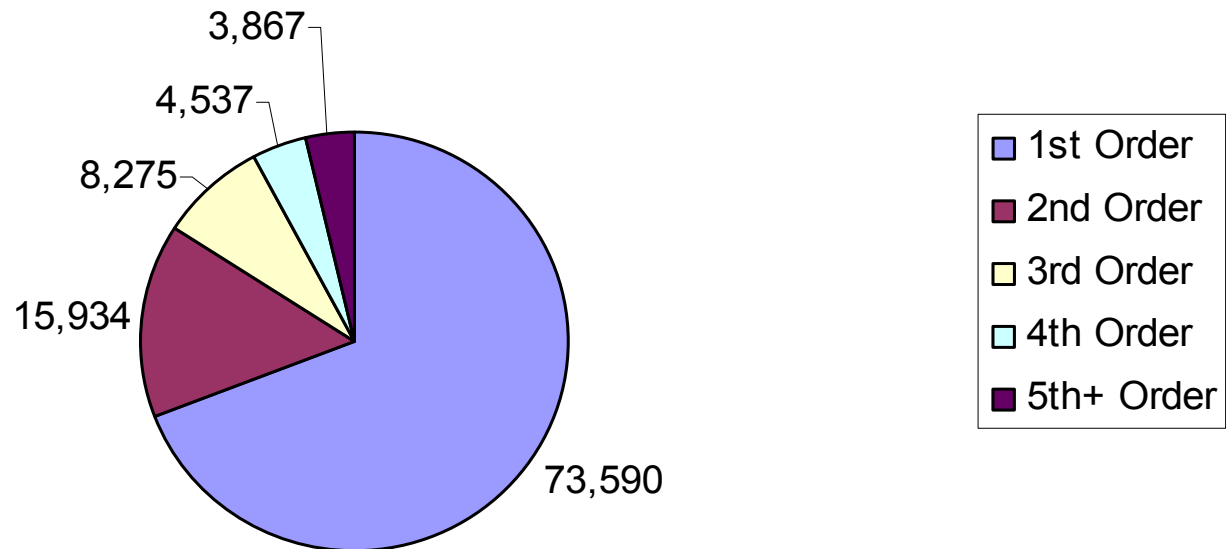


5th Order



# *Stream Orders*

**Oregon Stream Miles by Stream Order**



What are the Characteristics of your target population?

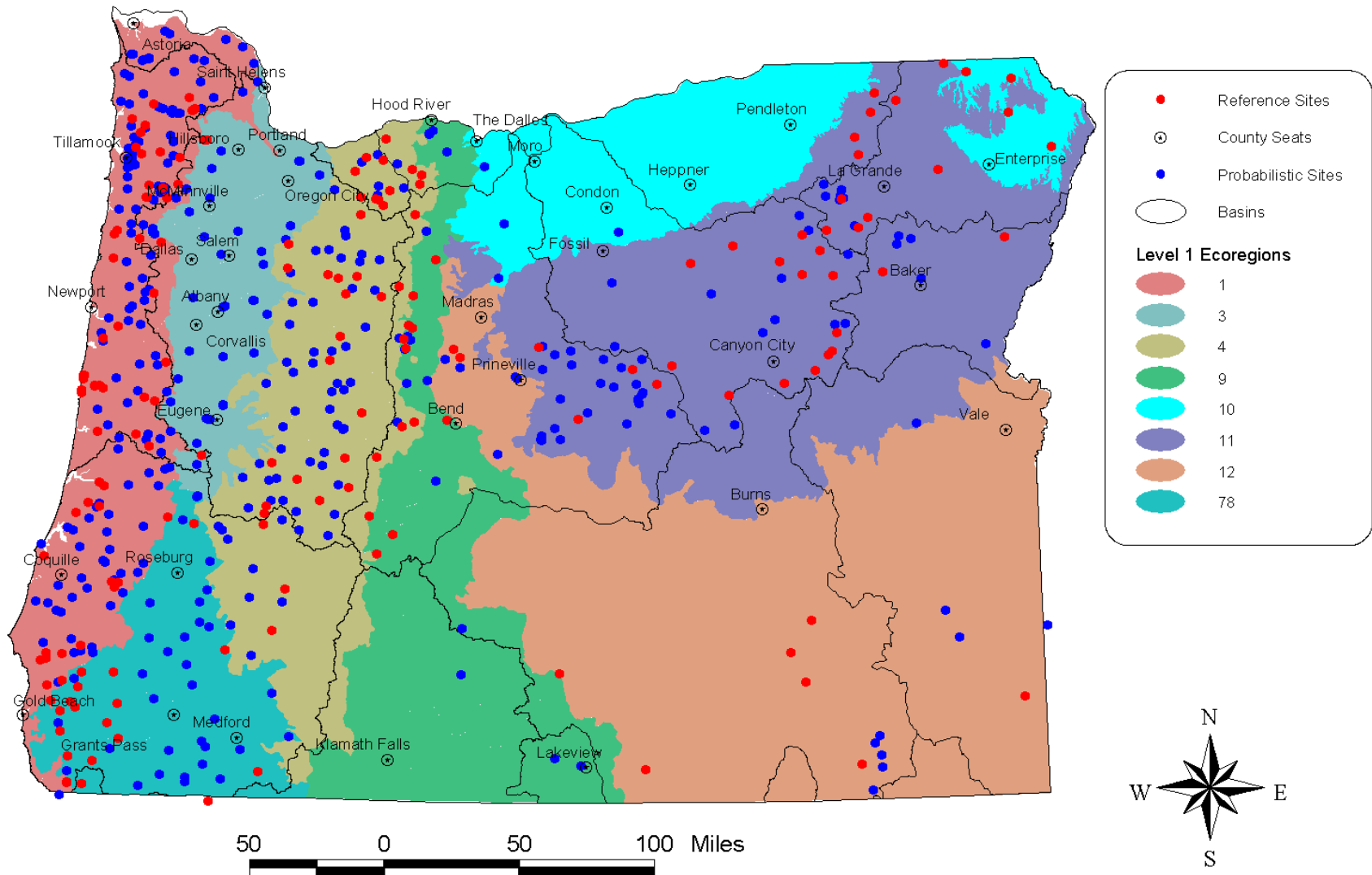
# *In Oregon Most Experience with REMAP*



- Oregon Coastal Ecoregion 1994 -1996
- Upper Deschutes Basin 1997 -1998
- Western Cascades 1999 - 2000
- Western Pilot EMAP 2000 - 2005
- Coastal EMAP 1999 - 2004

# Oregon DEQ Biomonitoring Sites

1996-2000





# *Studies Include*

- Physical (habitat)
- Chemical
- Biological (Fish, invertebrates, periphyton)
- Wadeable Streams
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd order



# *Biomonitoring Indicators*

## Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI)

- Presence or absence of specific aquatic Macroinvertebrate species.
- Abundance of macroinvertebrate species.
- Diversity of macroinvertebrate species.

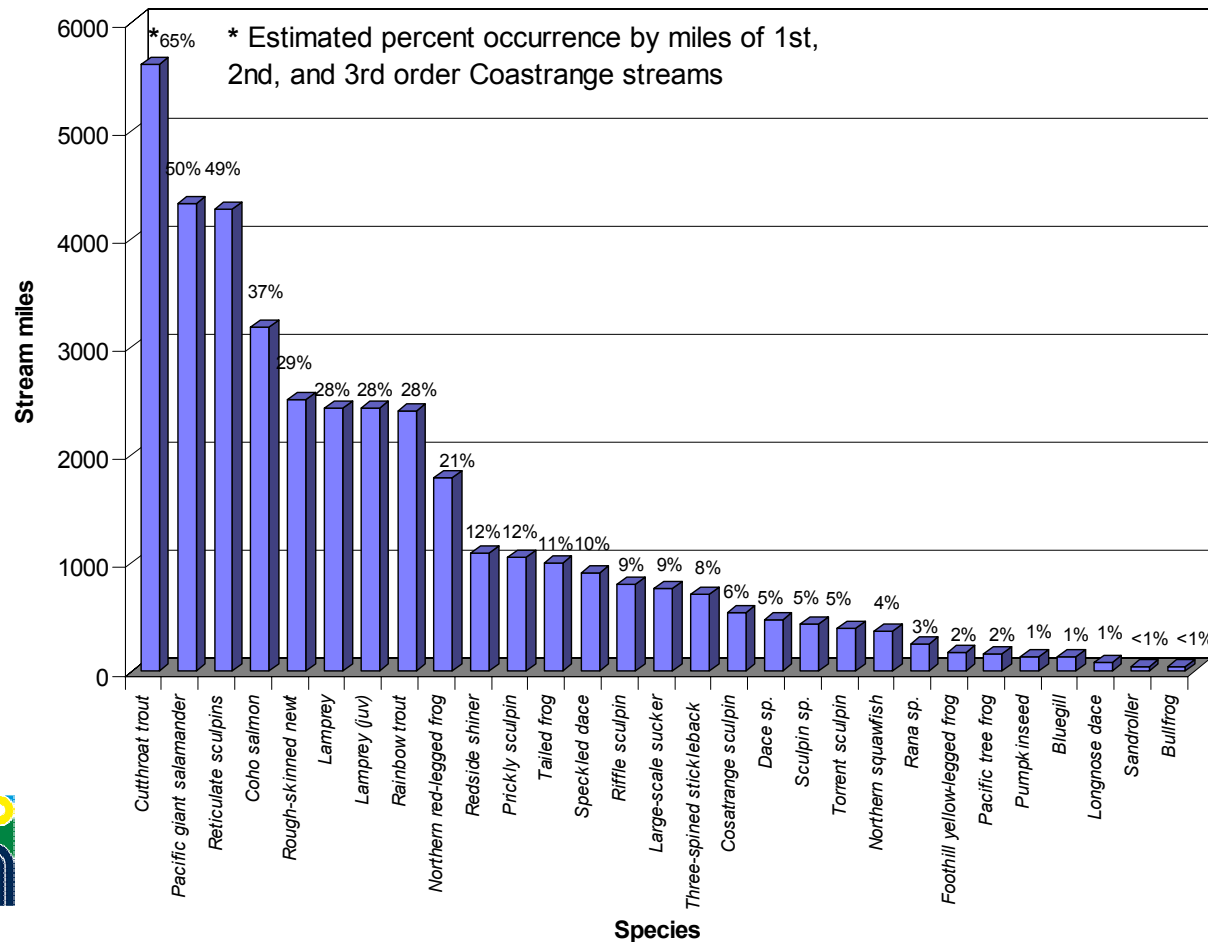
## Habitat Condition

- Percent gravel
- Fines
- Width to depth ratio
- Large woody debris
- Shade
- Residual pool depth
- Riparian condition



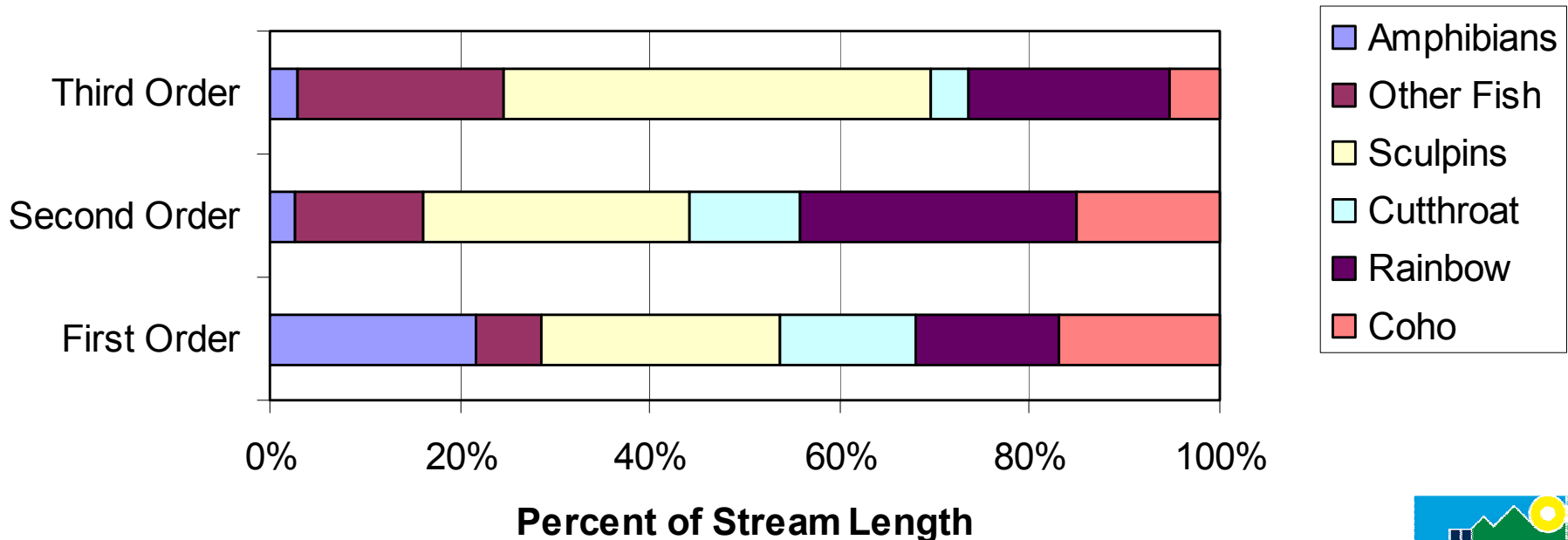
# 29 vertebrate Species - Cutthroat Trout most widespread, found in 65% of stream miles

1994-95 AQUATIC VERTEBRATE DETECTION SUMMARY BY SPECIES

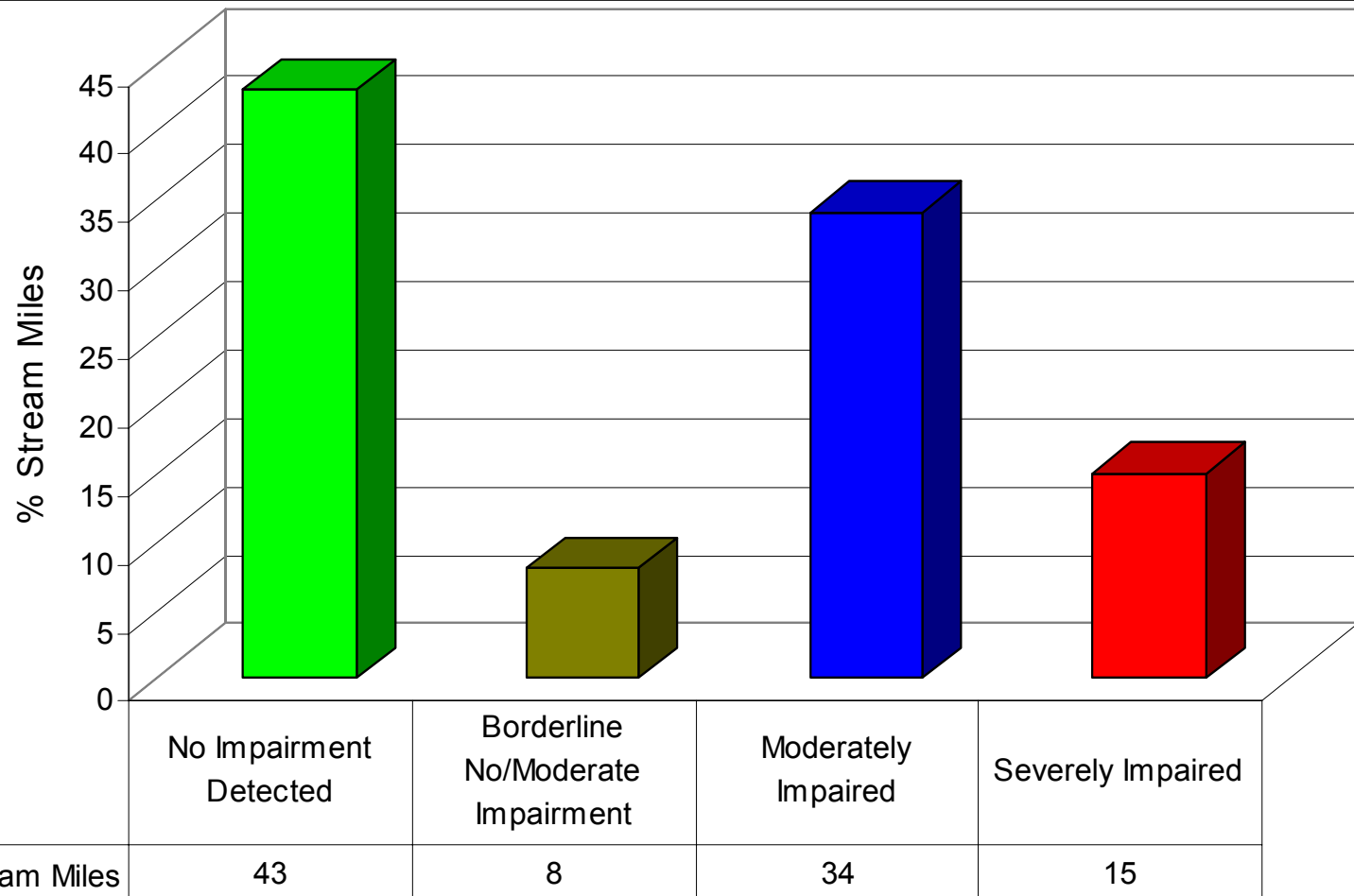


# *Sculpins were the Most Abundant Vertebrate Species*

Figure 3 - Relative Abundance of Fish and Amphibians  
Oregon Coast Range 1994/1995



# *49% of Coastal Streams Showed Impaired Macroinvertebrate Conditions*

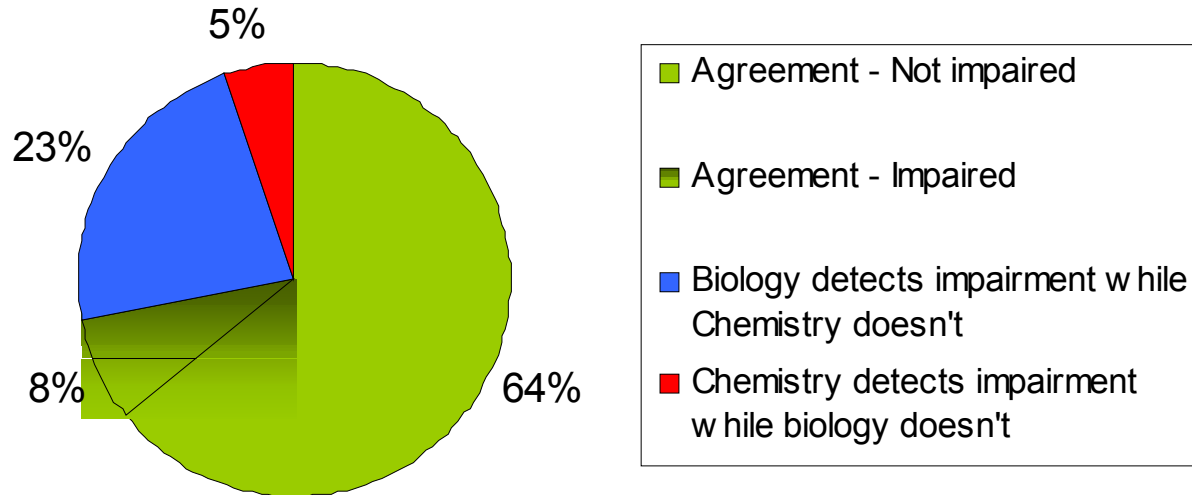




# *Biology Shows Higher Level of Stream Impairment than Chemistry Alone*

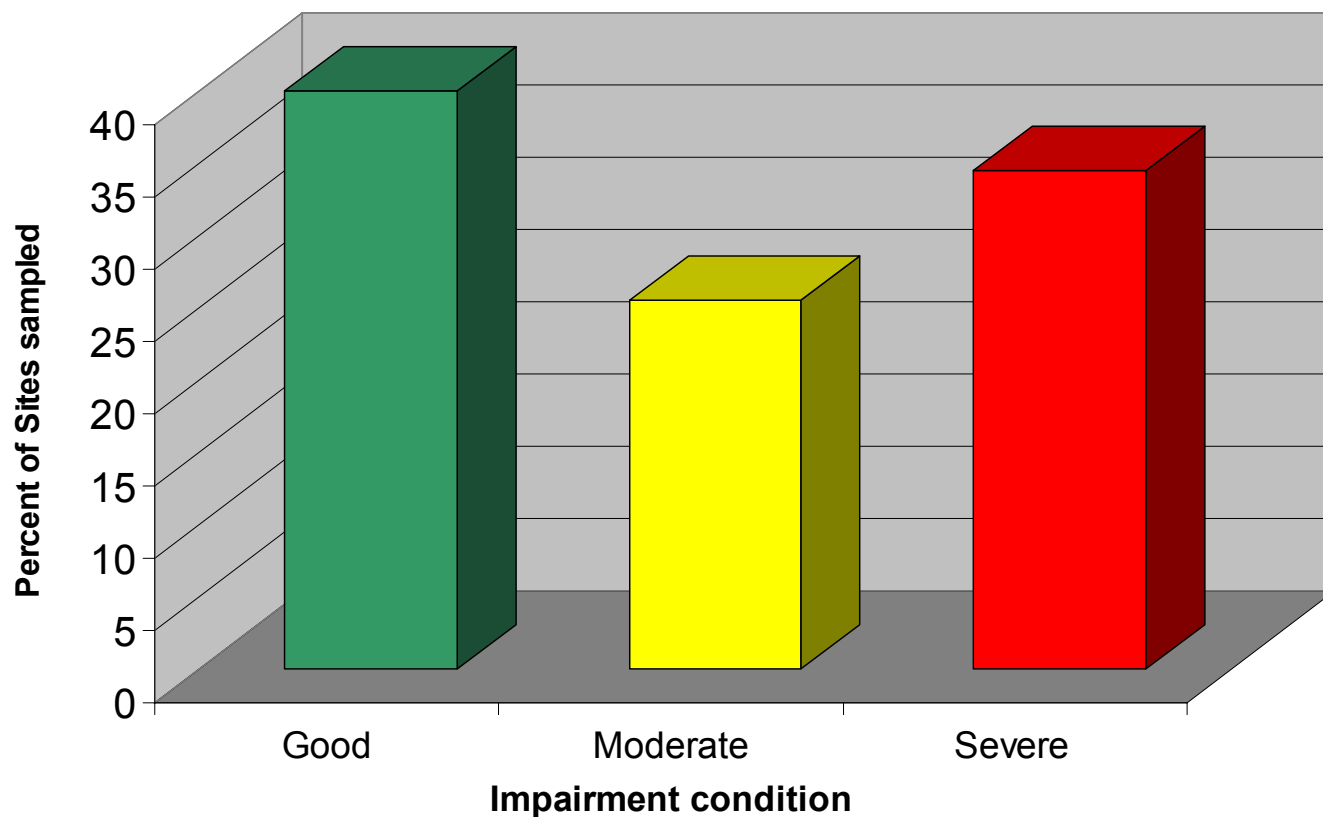
Oregon DEQ - April 2002

Chemical versus Biological Indicators of Aquatic Life Use Impairment - Macroinvertebrates & Vertebrates (n=150)



# *Habitat Conditions*

**1994-1996 Coast Range Habitat Condition**



# *Analysis Identified Six Habitat Parameters that had the Greatest Correlation with Biological Condition*

- Percent Course Substrate
- Riparian Canopy Cover
- Residual Pool Depth
- Percent Fine Sediments (decreased response)
- Shade
- Fish Cover



# Coastal Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program



# *CEMAP Schedule*

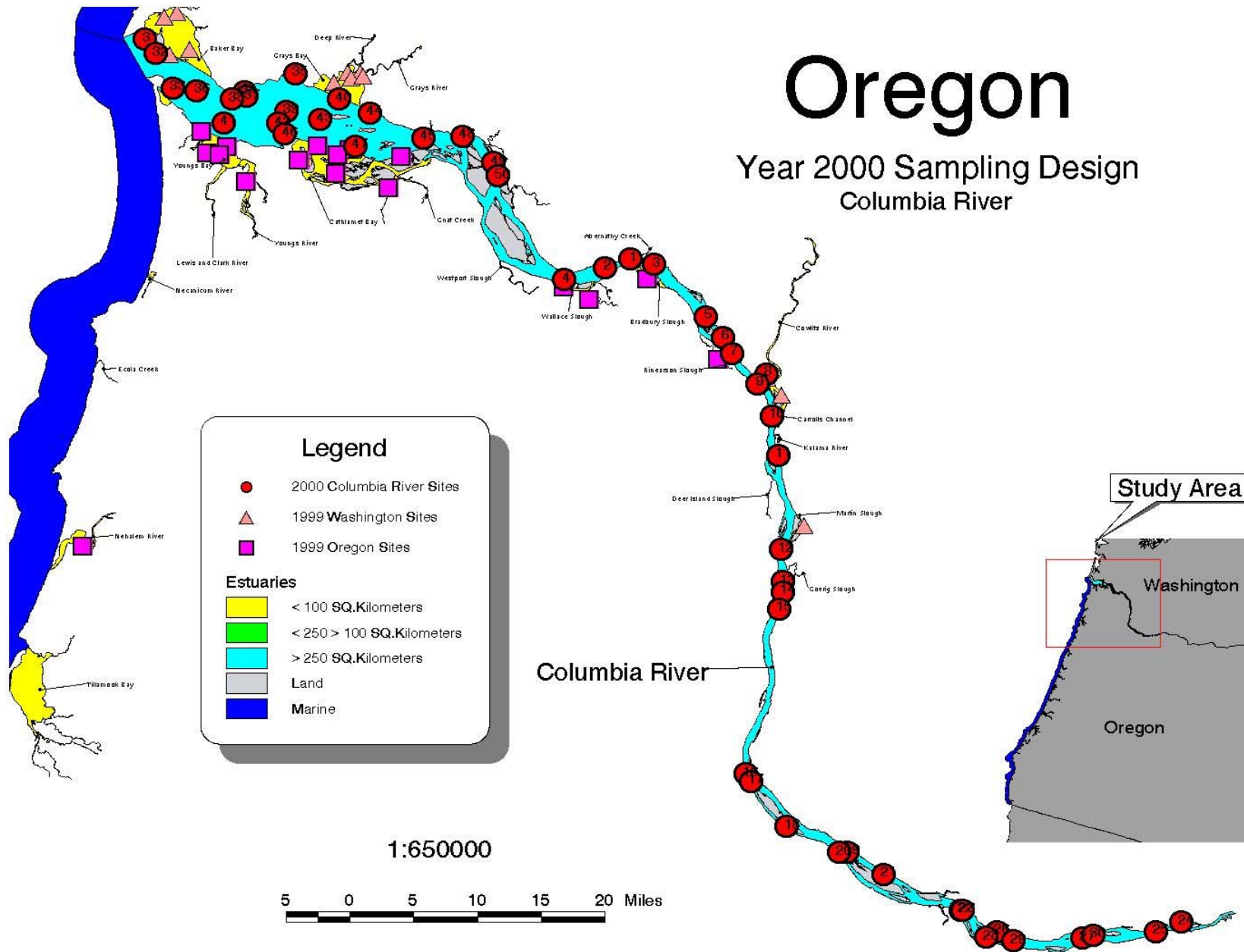


- 1999 - 80 small estuarine sites (30 in Tillamook)
- 2000 - 50 sites in the Columbia to Bonneville
- 2001 - 32 estuarine sites excl. Columbia
- 2002 - 80 intertidal sites
- 2003 - offshore sampling (out to 15 miles)



# Oregon

## Year 2000 Sampling Design Columbia River



# *Oregon Plan For Salmon and Watersheds*

- The Data Collected by Oregon DEQ in the Coast Range REMAP Project provided an initial data set and Monitoring Approach to build a Multi-Agency Monitoring Plan Around
- EMAP-like monitoring is now part of an overall state Salmon and Watershed Recovery Program





**THE OREGON PLAN**  
*for salmon & watersheds*

## *Monitoring Program Objective*

*“Evaluate the effectiveness of the Oregon Plan in restoring salmon populations and improving watershed conditions”*

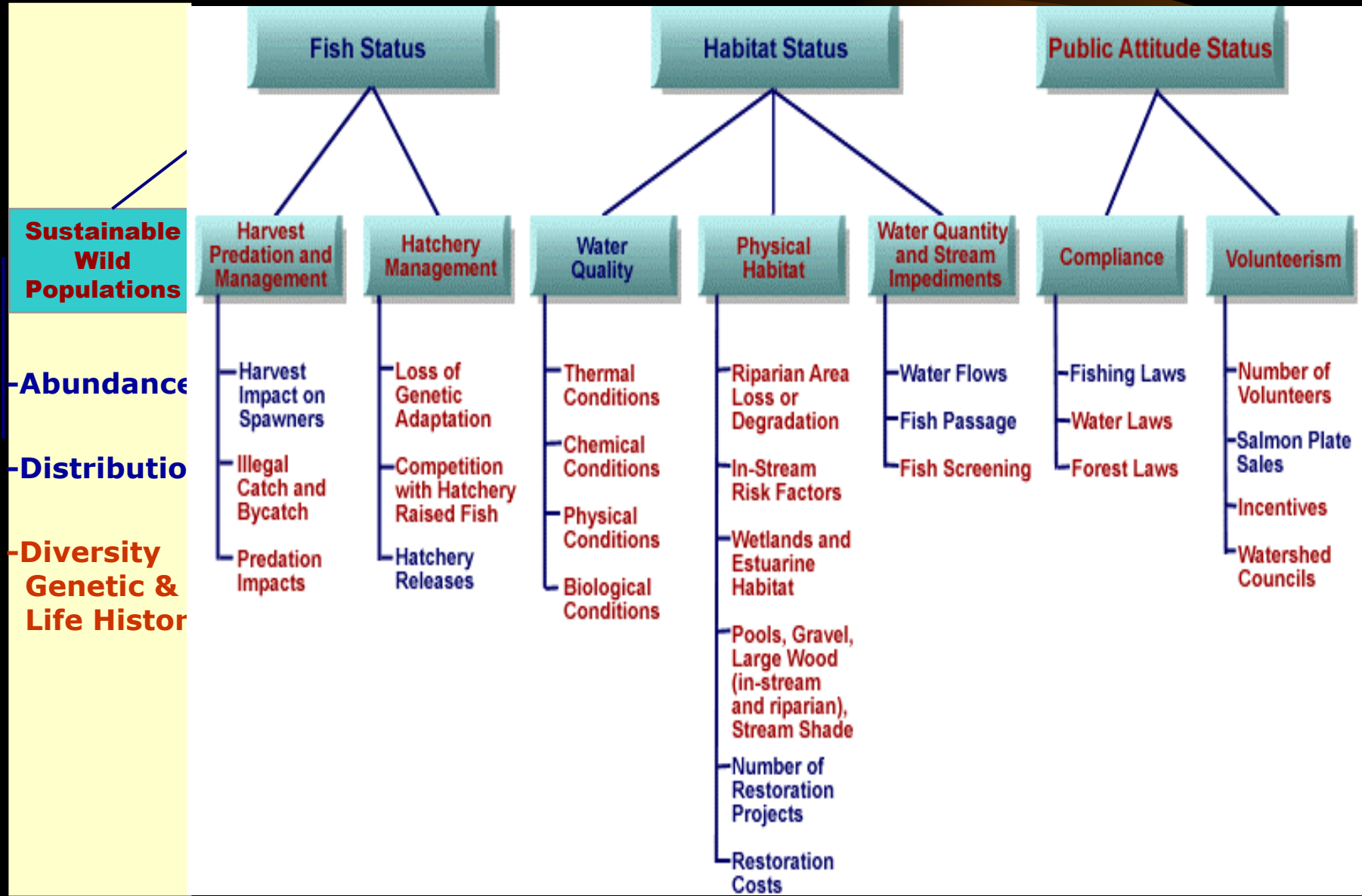
Know the contribution of Oregon Plan agency measures, programs, and restoration actions to habitat improvement and sustainable salmon populations



## *Common Questions*

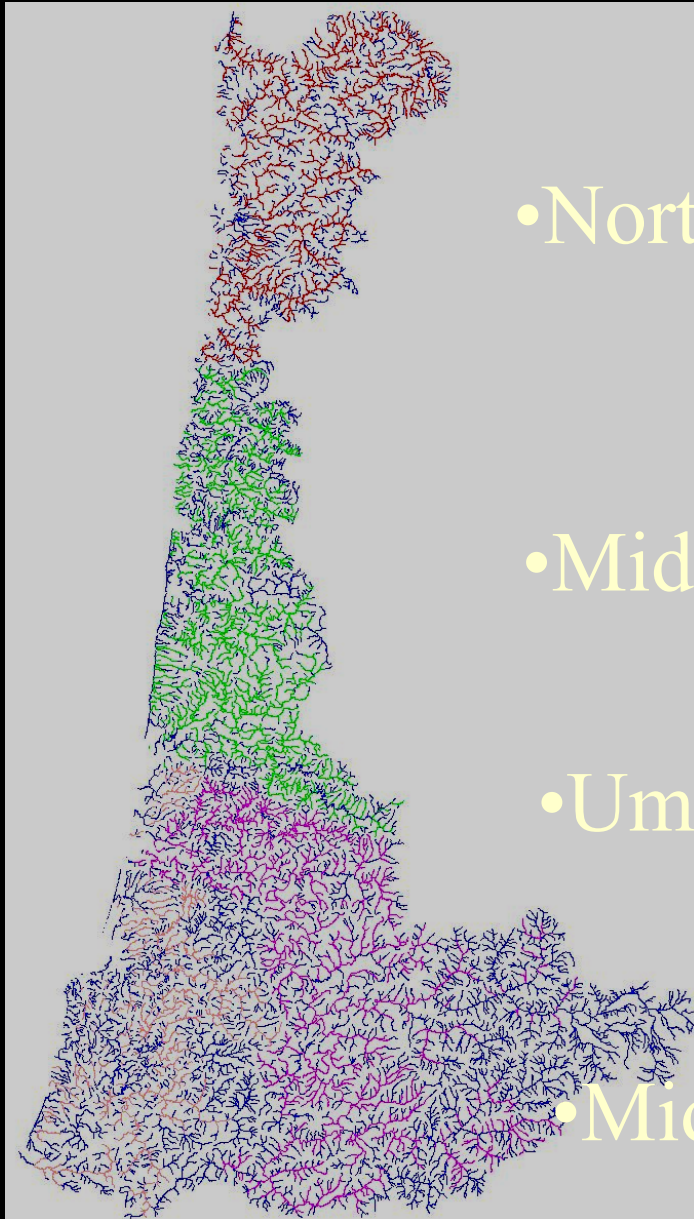
- *What are the significant trends in salmon populations?*
- *What is the productive capacity of aquatic habitats and watershed systems?*
- *What is the effectiveness of restoration actions relative to other factors?*

# What Should We Monitor? What is the Right Scale?





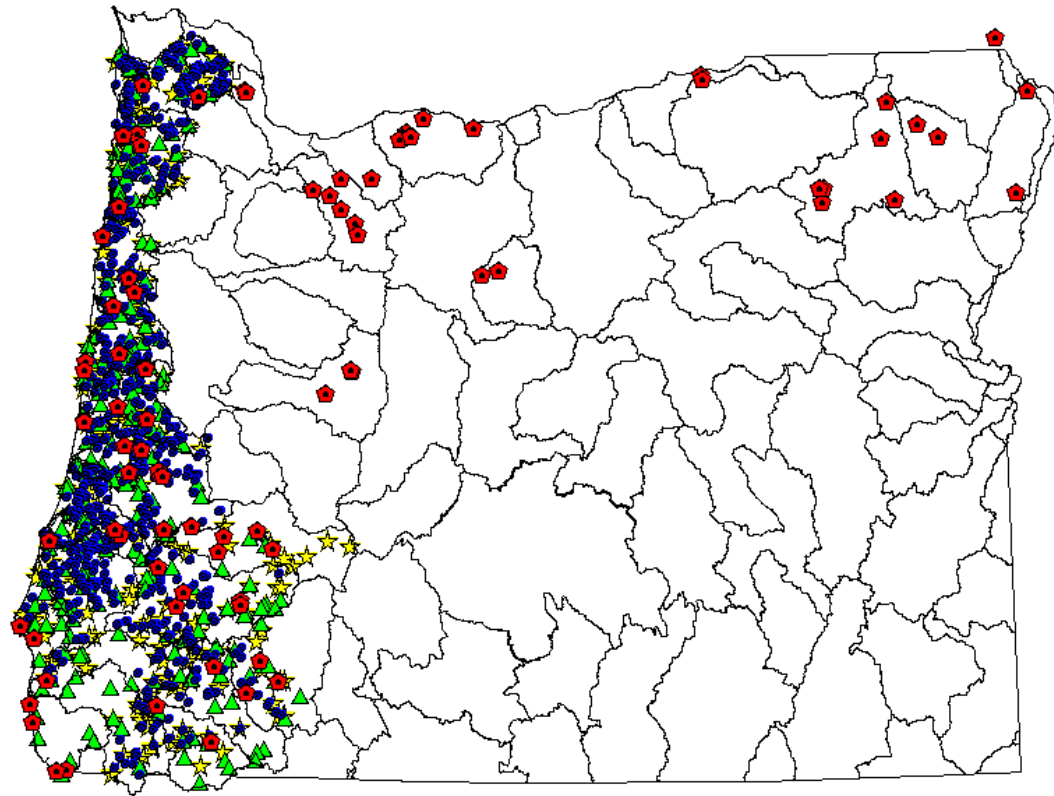
# *Assessment Areas*



- North-coast 1,300 spawning miles
- Mid-coast 1,700 spawning miles
- Umpqua 1,900 spawning miles
- Mid-south 1,000 spawning miles

# ODFW Oregon Plan Monitoring

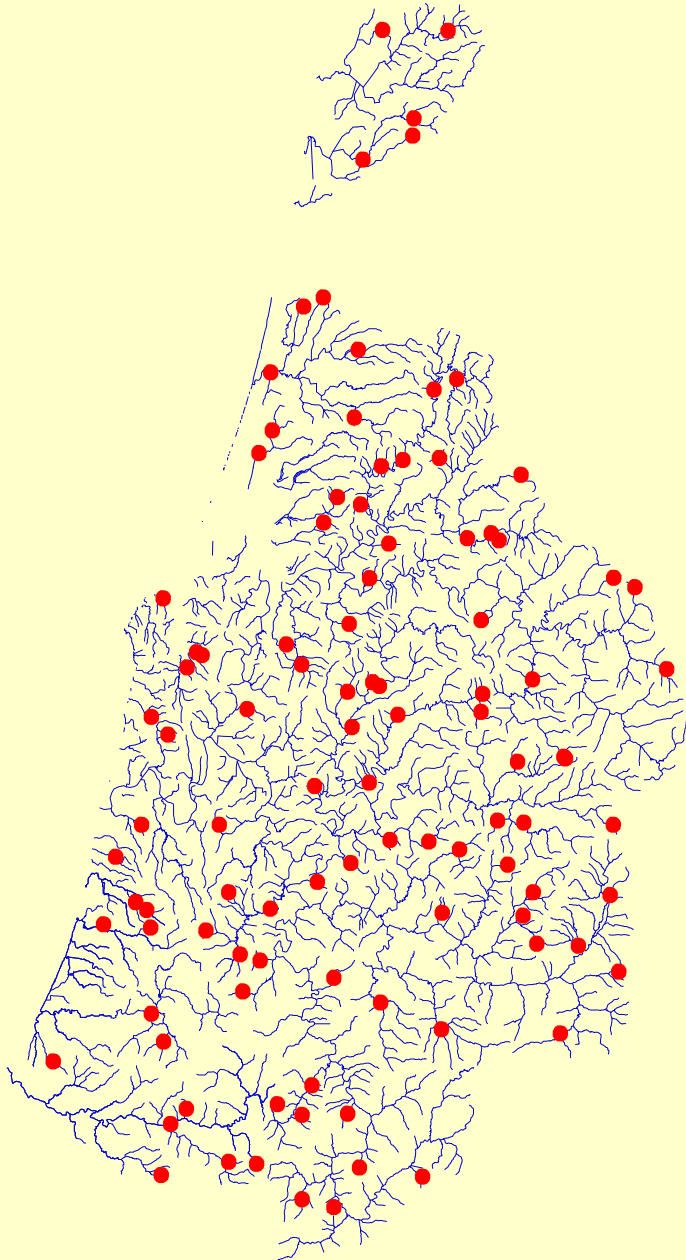
## Statewide Downstream Migrant Monitoring



### Legend

- Hydrologic Unit Boundary
- Smolt Trap Sites
- Spawning Survey Sites
- Rearing Survey Sites
- Habitat Survey Sites

# *EMAP* *APPROACH*



- Provides a consistent sampling framework to integrate monitoring projects
- Sample sites are determined by a GIS-based spatially balanced random selection process
- Provides a statistically rigorous sampling design to analyze the status and trends in resources



The End